

## Miriam Lens

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**From:** Darryl McAllister  
**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2015 5:46 PM  
**To:** List-Mayor-Council  
**Subject:** Glad Tidings Street Renaming

Dear members of the Hayward City Council:

I am writing to you in the capacity of a private citizen, rather than in my current work capacity in a neighboring city. I was contacted by members of Glad Tidings Church and asked if I would provide anecdotal information in support of the community's desire to change the name of a city street in recognition of Glad Tidings Church's influence on the transformation of the area surrounding the church. I did not feel it would be appropriate to appear in person on behalf of this issue, but I promised I would share my sentiments with you for consideration.

Glad Tidings' body of work is the epitome of these highest elements of faith and service. Having spent my first 32 years of police work on the streets of Hayward (predominately south Hayward in what was then considered "the hood"), it was a pleasure to work with then Reverend Macklin and the staff of this new church that was just getting started on my patrol beat. The church was just trying to get its legs under itself and was in its first couple years of growth at the time. But none of that newness seemed to matter to Reverend Macklin, who I'd see several times a week while I tried to deal with all the drug dealers, shootings, prostitution, and violence happening on a daily basis in the neighborhood surrounding this new Glad Tidings Church.

I remember this young Reverend talking with me about how the police department and the church could support and help each other rid the neighborhood of all that fear and carnage. We would often talk about how I might be able to provide the church's ministry with leads about families that were cowering under the violence that surrounded them—families that might benefit from (or find some relief in) the church's outreach. And vice versa, I can remember how much sense it made when Reverend Macklin and his staff suggested the church could encourage people to come forward who otherwise would never dream of giving information to the police. Although missions of service between the church and the police department may have been vastly different, Reverend Macklin knew we were both working in pursuit of a common goal for a thriving, peaceful neighborhood.

And so the model preceded itself for how a church and a police department could join forces in fixing a broken part of the community. It was clear: Glad Tidings was a pioneer who literally helped define a new brand of community policing.

Here's a perfect example: In the drug infested neighborhoods around the church, the police department had been struggling mightily to come up with strategies to take back particular street corners where drug dealers established their territory. We would constantly arrest them, but they would get out of jail and return to pick up where they left off. We would do undercover stings, but we were too easily made as undercover cops. It got so bad, some of the dealers wouldn't even run when they saw a police car coming. But that young reverend was a genius of wisdom....both beyond his young years, and within the strength of his faith. He started calling late night prayer meetings at the church, and toward the end of those meetings, he would gather together small groups of church members (mostly grandmothers and elderly members), then he would send them out together—in groups of five or six, dressed in their fine hats and white gloves, and each carrying a bible—straight over to the hottest dope dealing corners of the neighborhood! They would simply nudge the dope dealers over to the side, gather in a circle, and resume their prayer meeting right there on the corner. The hard-core dope dealers may have been inclined to shoot at each other or fight with the police, but they didn't want to have anything to do with those grandmothers! They had a choice: Either join the prayer meeting, or find another corner. The problem was the next few corners in each direction had another set of grandmothers preaching in force.

This was the beginning of what would end up being a decade-long labor of love for Glad Tidings, and under Macklin's vision, would in 1998 establish the Northern California Community Development Corporation (NCCD). This set a new standard and creative strategy as a model for a neighborhood collaborative, a church, and city officials to work together to reduce deterioration of a neighborhood. The effort truly kept the community from being marginalized. Then, the church systematically acquired and revitalized numerous run-down properties and restored them through economic development, including exciting new housing and education opportunities for scores of people who simply wanted to feel safe and loved.

The area that was once riddled with drugs and crime eventually became a highly desired place to live, and is commonly known today as part of the Glad Tidings Campus.

The work Glad Tidings has done over the past 30 years in the Tennyson Rd, Tyrell Ave, Forselles St, and Tampa Ave corridor is immeasurable and almost unheard of in any community. I present this perspective to you in support of the Church and the community's desire to rename a city Street under the Glad Tidings name. I hope you give it some consideration.

Sincerely,

